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Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Kadra Ahmed **Hassan** (Djibouti)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled:

"Promotion and protection of the rights of children:

"(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children;

"(b) Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 14th to 19th, 28th, 31st, 38th, 48th and 50th meetings, from 12 to 14 and on 17, 21 and 25 October and 1, 21 and 22 November 2011. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/66/SR.14-19, 28, 31, 38, 48 and 50).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/66/230);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the girl child (A/66/257);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on children (A/66/258);

(d) Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (A/66/227);

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(e) Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (A/66/256);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/66/228).

4. At its 14th meeting, on 12 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund, who responded to questions raised by the representatives of the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Peru, the United States of America, Costa Rica and Zimbabwe (see A/C.3/66/SR.14).

5. At the same meeting, an introductory statement was made by the Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, who responded to questions raised and comments made by the representatives of the United States, Switzerland, the European Union, Benin and Austria (see A/C.3/66/SR.14).

6. Also at the same meeting, an introductory statement was made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, who responded to questions raised and comments made by the representatives of Australia, Jordan, the United States, Brazil, the European Union, Sweden, Norway, Costa Rica, Algeria and Austria (see A/C.3/66/SR.14).

7. At the same meeting, an introductory statement was made by the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (see A/C.3/66/SR.14).

8. Also at the 14th meeting, an introductory statement was made by the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, who responded to questions raised and comments made by the representatives of Morocco, Brazil, the European Union, the United States and Norway (see A/C.3/66/SR.14).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.3/66/L.22 and Rev.1

9. At the 28th meeting, on 21 October, the representative of Thailand, also on behalf of Myanmar, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of the United Nations system on child protection" (A/C.3/66/L.22), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Reaffirming* all its previous resolutions on the rights of the child in their entirety, the most recent of which is resolution 65/197 of 21 December 2010,

"*Stressing* that the Convention on the Rights of the Child constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and bearing in mind the importance of the Optional Protocols to the Convention, calling for their universal ratification, as well as that of other related human rights instruments,

"*Stressing also*, in this regard, the importance of taking into account the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child relating to child protection,

"*Welcoming* the recent adoption by the Human Rights Council, through its resolution 17/18 of 17 June 2011, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure,

"*Reaffirming* that the general principles of, inter alia, the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development provide the framework for all actions concerning children,

"*Stressing* the importance of mainstreaming the promotion and protection of children's rights in the policies and programmes of the United Nations system,

"*Recognizing* the primary role and responsibility of the State in the promotion and protection of children's rights, while recognizing also the primary responsibility of the family for the nurturing and protection of children and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

"*Recognizing* the important role of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, through the United Nations country team as the focal agency for children's affairs on the ground, as well as relevant United Nations actors such as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, in supporting Member States on child protection issues; and, in this regard, acknowledging also the important contribution of civil society on child protection issues,

"*Stressing* the importance for all relevant actors of the United Nations on child protection to uphold the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, meaning, in particular, though not exclusively, probity, impartiality, equity, honesty and good faith,

"*Emphasizing* that all relevant actors of the United Nations on child protection should neither seek nor accept instructions from any Government, individual, governmental or non-governmental organization or pressure group whatsoever,

"*Stressing* that strengthened coordination of the United Nations system on child protection issues will be a vital contribution to supporting Member States on child protection issues,

"1. *Stresses* that, with a view to strengthening all of its tools used for child protection, the United Nations system should enhance coordination among relevant United Nations actors, such as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, the Special Rapporteur on

trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and other relevant future United Nations actors, in order to more effectively support Member States, with the United Nations Children's Fund playing the focal role both at United Nations Headquarters and in the field;

"2. *Reiterates* the importance of the General Assembly playing a major role in the overall coordination of United Nations mechanisms on child protection, ensuring coherence among them and avoiding duplication of mandates and activities;

"3. *Stresses* that enhancing coordination of the United Nations in this regard refers also to ensuring reasonably equitable distribution of the regular budget in terms of financial and human resources based on mandated activities;

"4. *Requests*, within existing resources and mandates, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to report to one another on activities carried out by their respective offices on child protection issues, in particular regarding any new child protection tools at their disposal, and requests the Secretary-General, with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund, to compile that information in a comprehensive annual report to the General Assembly;

"5. *Reiterates* that it is incumbent upon all relevant actors of the United Nations on child protection to exercise their functions in strict observance of their mandate and, in particular, to ensure that their recommendations do not exceed their mandate;

"6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close consultation with Member States, to create an evaluation mechanism of the United Nations system on child protection issues for Member States to assess their satisfaction with the support received from the United Nations system and current and future relevant actors on child protection issues, which should also seek to receive recommendations from Member States on areas of cooperation that need to be strengthened;

"7. *Decides* to incorporate/allocate a specific session for discussion under the appropriate agenda item on the topic 'Strengthening coordination of the United Nations system on child protection' to allow for Member States to have an interactive dialogue with the various United Nations actors on child protection on that topic based on the annual comprehensive report submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General, which will also be an opportunity to share experience and best practice and to explore capacity-building opportunities needed to support Member States in dealing with child protection;

"8. *Encourages* donor countries and the United Nations system, as well as the international financial institutions, the private sector and civil society to contribute to and support technical cooperation and capacity-building, as

appropriate, for Member States on strengthening their child protection efforts and coordination on this matter, taking into account the needs of Member States and the relevant recommendations of mandate holders on child protection in this regard;

"9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution."

10. At its 48th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Strengthening collaboration on child protection within the United Nations system" (A/C.3/66/L.22/Rev.1), submitted by Bhutan, India, Kazakhstan, Libya, Morocco, Myanmar, Pakistan, Seychelles, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam, joined by Algeria, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Senegal, South Sudan, the Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan and Zimbabwe.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.22/Rev.1 (see para 32, draft resolution I).

12. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Malaysia, on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; after the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Norway (also on behalf of Liechtenstein and Switzerland), China, Poland (on behalf of the European Union), Costa Rica, Pakistan and Chile (see A/C.3/66/SR.48).

B. Draft resolutions A/C.3/66/L.24 and Rev.1

13. At the 31st meeting, on 25 October, the representative of Zimbabwe, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community and Panama, introduced a draft resolution entitled "The girl child" (A/C.3/66/L.24), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 64/145 of 18 December 2009 and all relevant resolutions including the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women, in particular those relevant to the girl child,

"*Reaffirming* the equal rights of women and men as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

"*Recalling* all human rights and other instruments relevant to the rights of the child, in particular the girl child, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Optional Protocols thereto and the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages,

"*Reaffirming* the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the commitments relevant to the girl child made at the 2005 World Summit, and welcoming the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals entitled 'Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals',

"*Reaffirming* the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled 'A world fit for children', the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted at the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, entitled 'Global Crisis — Global Action', and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS of 2006, and welcoming the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS,

"*Reaffirming also* all other relevant outcomes of major United Nations summits and conferences relevant to the girl child, as well as their five- and ten-year reviews, including the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century', the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome document of the High-level Meeting on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding, as well as the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status on Women at its fifty-fifth session, at which it considered 'The access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work' as its priority theme,

"*Welcoming* the adoption by the Commission on the Status of Women of the declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and reiterating that full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in particular the strategic objectives relating to the girl child, is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Reaffirming* the Dakar Framework for Action, adopted at the World Education Forum in 2000,

"*Recognizing* that chronic poverty remains the single biggest obstacle to meeting the needs of and promoting and protecting the rights of children and that urgent national and international action is therefore required to eliminate it, and noting that the burden of the ongoing global financial and economic crisis, the energy crisis, the food crisis and the continuing food insecurity as a result of various factors is felt directly by households, especially those depending on income from the informal sector, and particularly by women and girls,

"*Recognizing also* that girl children are often at greater risk of being exposed to and encountering various forms of discrimination and violence, which continue to hinder efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium

Development Goals, and reaffirming the need to achieve gender equality to ensure a just and equitable world for girls, including through partnering with men and boys, as an important strategy for advancing the rights of the girl child,

"*Recognizing further* that progress has been made in the passage of national legislation that affirms the equality of girls and boys and that corresponding measures have not been taken to effectively implement such legislation, and recognizing the continuing existence of discrimination against women and girls throughout the world and that addressing this situation will require additional efforts to strengthen policy implementation, including through international cooperation,

"*Recognizing* that the empowerment of girls is key in breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and in promoting and protecting the full and effective enjoyment of their human rights, and further recognizing that empowering girls requires the active support and engagement of their parents, legal guardians, families, the authorities of alternative care institutions, boys and men, as well as the wider community,

"*Deeply concerned* about all forms of violence against children, in particular the phenomena that disproportionately affect girls, such as commercial sexual exploitation and child pornography, child and forced marriage, rape, sexual abuse and domestic violence, and, in addition, about the corresponding lack of accountability and impunity, which reflect discriminatory norms reinforcing the lower status of girls in society,

"*Deeply concerned also* about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access for girls to education, and to quality education, nutrition and physical and mental health care, in girls enjoying fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys, and in leaving them more vulnerable than boys to the consequences of unprotected and premature sexual relations and often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and violence, abuse, rape, incest, honour-related crimes and harmful traditional practices, such as female infanticide, child and forced marriages, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation,

"*Deeply concerned further* that, despite its widespread practice, child marriage is still underreported and has received limited attention,

"*Deeply concerned* that female genital mutilation violates and impairs the full enjoyment of the human rights of women and girls and that it is an irreparable and irreversible harmful practice, and that the goal of ending female genital mutilation by 2010, set out in the document entitled 'A world fit for children', remains unmet,

"*Deeply concerned also* that, in situations of poverty, war and armed conflict, girl children are among those most affected and furthermore become the victims of sexual violence, abuse and exploitation and sexually transmitted infections and diseases, including HIV and AIDS, which have a serious impact on the quality of their lives and leave them open to further discrimination, violence and neglect, thus limiting their potential for full development,

"*Emphasizing* that increased access to education, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, for young people, especially girls, dramatically lowers their vulnerability to preventable diseases, in particular HIV infection and sexually transmitted diseases,

"*Deeply concerned* by the increasing number of child-headed households, in particular those headed by orphaned girls, including those orphaned by the HIV and AIDS epidemic,

"*Deeply concerned also* that early childbearing and limited access to sexual and reproductive health care, including in the areas of skilled birth attendance, and emergency obstetric care, cause high levels of obstetric fistula and maternal mortality and morbidity,

"*Recognizing* that early childbearing continues to be an impediment to the improvement of the educational and social status of girls in all parts of the world and that, overall, child and forced marriages and early motherhood can severely curtail their educational opportunities and are likely to have a long-term, adverse impact on their employment opportunities and on their and their children's quality of life,

"*Welcoming* the political declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action: United against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, while convinced that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance reveal themselves in a differentiated manner for women and girls and can be among the factors leading to a deterioration in their living conditions, poverty, violence, multiple forms of discrimination and limitation or denial of their human rights,

"*Recognizing* that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple discrimination, including in education and schooling,

"1. *Stresses* the need for full and urgent implementation of the rights of the girl child as provided to her under human rights instruments, and urges States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocols thereto as a matter of priority;

"2. *Urges* all States that have not yet signed and ratified or acceded to the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) of the International Labour Organization to consider doing so;

"3. *Urges* all Governments and the United Nations system to strengthen efforts bilaterally and with international organizations and private sector donors in order to achieve the goals of the World Education Forum, in particular that of eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, which have not been fully met, and to implement the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative as a means of reaching this goal, and calls for the implementation of and reaffirms the commitments contained

in the Education for All goals and the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those related to gender and education;

"4. *Calls upon* all States to place enhanced emphasis on quality education for the girl child, including catch-up and literacy education for those who did not receive formal education, to promote access to skills and entrepreneurial training for young women and to tackle male and female stereotypes in order to ensure that young women entering the labour market have opportunities to obtain full and productive employment and decent work;

"5. *Encourages* States to develop gender-sensitive curricula for educational programmes at all levels and take concrete measures to ensure that educational materials portray women and men, youth, girls and boys in positive and non-stereotypical roles, particularly in the teaching of scientific and technological subjects, in order to address the root causes of segregation in working life;

"6. *Calls upon* States and the international community to recognize the right to education on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination by making primary education compulsory and available free to all children, ensuring that all children have access to education of good quality, as well as making secondary education generally available and accessible to all, in particular through the progressive introduction of free education, bearing in mind that special measures to ensure equal access, including affirmative action, contribute to achieving equal opportunity and combating exclusion, and ensuring school attendance, in particular for girls and children from low-income families;

"7. *Also calls upon* States, with the support of international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, to develop policies and programmes, giving priority to formal and informal education programmes that support girls and enable them to acquire knowledge, develop self-esteem and take responsibility for their own lives, and to place special focus on programmes to educate women and men, especially parents, about the importance of girls' physical and mental health and well-being, including the elimination of discrimination against girls in child and forced marriages;

"8. *Calls upon* all States and international and non-governmental organizations, individually and collectively, to implement further the Beijing Platform for Action, in particular the strategic objectives relating to the girl child, and the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and to mobilize all necessary resources and support in order to achieve the goals and strategic objectives and actions set out in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

"9. *Calls upon* all States to take measures to address the obstacles that continue to affect the achievement of the goals set forth in the Beijing Platform for Action, as contained in paragraph 33 of the further actions and initiatives, where appropriate, including the strengthening of national mechanisms to implement policies and programmes for the girl child and, in some cases, to enhance coordination among responsible institutions for the

realization of the human rights of girls, as indicated in the further actions and initiatives;

"10. *Urges* States to strengthen efforts to urgently eradicate all forms of discrimination against women and girls, and, where applicable, to remain dedicated to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto;

"11. *Also urges* States to fulfil the pledges that they made at the Fourth World Conference on Women and at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly to modify or abolish remaining laws that discriminate against women and girls;

"12. *Further urges* States to improve the situation of girl children living in poverty, deprived of nutrition, water and sanitation facilities, with limited or no access to basic physical and mental health-care services, shelter, education, participation and protection, taking into account that, while a severe lack of goods and services hurts every human being, it is most threatening and harmful to the girl child, leaving her unable to enjoy her rights, to reach her full potential and to participate as a full member of society;

"13. *Urges* States to ensure that the applicable requirements of the International Labour Organization for the employment of girls and boys are respected and effectively enforced and that girls who are employed have equal access to decent work, and equal payment and remuneration, are protected from economic exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and abuse in the workplace, are aware of their rights and have access to formal and non-formal education, skills development and vocational training, and further urges States to develop gender-sensitive measures, including national action plans, where appropriate, to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, including commercial sexual exploitation, slavery-like practices, forced and bonded labour, trafficking and hazardous forms of child labour;

"14. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening health systems, in particular primary health care and the need to integrate the HIV response into it, and notes that weak health systems, which already face many challenges, including a lack of trained health workers and insufficient retention of skilled health workers, are among the biggest barriers to accessing health care;

"15. *Calls upon* States, with the support of relevant stakeholders including the private sector and faith-based organizations, to take all measures necessary to ensure the right of girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, and to develop sustainable health systems and social services;

"16. *Urges* all States to promote gender equality and equal access to basic social services, such as education, nutrition, birth registration, health care, including sexual and reproductive health, vaccinations and protection from diseases representing the major causes of mortality, including non-communicable diseases, and to mainstream a gender perspective in all development policies and programmes, including those relating to children as well as those specific to the girl child;

"17. *Calls upon* States, with the support of international organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to take appropriate measures to address the root factors of child and forced marriages, including by undertaking educational activities to raise awareness regarding the negative aspects of such practices;

"18. *Urges* all States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses, and, in addition, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage and raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary, and to develop and implement comprehensive policies, plans of action and programmes for the survival, protection, development and advancement of the girl child in order to promote and protect the full enjoyment of her human rights and to ensure equal opportunities for girls, including by making such plans an integral part of her total development process;

"19. *Urges* States to ensure that efforts to implement legislation to end child and forced marriage engage all stakeholders and agents of change and ensure that the information on the legislation banning the practice is well known and generates social support for the enforcement of such laws and legislation;

"20. *Calls upon* States to support community workshops and discussion sessions that enable communities to collectively explore alternatives to child marriage, provide information from credible sources, including medical personnel and religious leaders, regarding the harm associated with child marriage, give greater voice to girls, and ensure consistency of the message throughout the entire community, with the strong engagement of men and boys;

"21. *Also calls upon* States to support and implement, including with dedicated resources, multisectoral policies and programmes that end the practice of child marriage and ensure the provision of viable alternatives and institutional support, especially educational opportunities for girls, with an emphasis on keeping girls in school through post-primary education, including those who are already married or pregnant, ensuring physical access to education by establishing safe residential facilities, increasing financial incentives to families, promoting the empowerment of girls, improving educational quality, and ensuring safe and hygienic conditions in schools;

"22. *Further calls upon* States to strengthen research, data collection and analysis of child and enforced marriage, disaggregated by age, sex and geographic location, in order to identify the multiple forms of discrimination girls face and to develop necessary policy and programme responses;

"23. *Urges* all States to enact and enforce legislation to protect girls from all forms of violence and exploitation, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, female genital mutilation, rape, domestic violence, incest, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography, trafficking and forced migration, forced labour, and forced marriage, as well as marriage under legal age, and to develop age-appropriate safe and confidential programmes and medical, social and psychological

support services to assist girls who are subjected to violence and discrimination;

"24. *Urges* States to complement punitive measures with educational activities designed to promote a process of consensus towards the abandonment of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and to provide appropriate services for those affected by the practices;

"25. *Calls upon* all States to enact and enforce the necessary legislative or other measures, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to prevent the distribution over the Internet of child pornography, including depictions of child sexual abuse, ensuring that adequate mechanisms are in place to enable reporting and removal of such material and that its creators, distributors and collectors are prosecuted as appropriate;

"26. *Urges* States to formulate comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, which should be widely disseminated and should provide targets and timetables for implementation, as well as effective domestic enforcement procedures through the establishment of monitoring mechanisms involving all parties concerned, including consultations with women's organizations, giving attention to the recommendations relating to the girl child of the Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children;

"27. *Also urges* States to ensure that the right of children to express themselves and to participate in all matters affecting them, in accordance with their age and maturity, is fully and equally enjoyed by girls;

"28. *Further urges* States to involve girls, including girls with special needs, and their representative organizations, in decision-making processes, as appropriate, and to include them as full and active partners in identifying their own needs and in developing, planning, implementing and assessing policies and programmes to meet those needs;

"29. *Recognizes* that a considerable number of girl children are particularly vulnerable, including orphans, children living on the street, internally displaced and refugee children, children affected by trafficking and sexual and economic exploitation, children living with HIV and AIDS, and children who are incarcerated who live without parental support, and therefore urges States, with the support of the international community, where relevant, to take appropriate measures to address the needs of such children by implementing national policies and strategies to build and strengthen governmental, community and family capacities to provide a supportive environment for such children, including by providing appropriate counselling and psychosocial support, and ensuring their enrolment in school and access to shelter, good nutrition and health and social services on an equal basis with other children;

"30. *Encourages* States to promote actions, including through bilateral and multilateral technical cooperation and financial assistance, for the social

reintegration of children in difficult situations, in particular girls, considering, inter alia, views, skills and capacities that those children have developed in the conditions in which they lived and, where appropriate, with their meaningful participation;

"31. *Urges* all States and the international community to respect, promote and protect the rights of the girl child, taking into account the particular vulnerabilities of the girl child in pre-conflict, conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as humanitarian emergencies, and further urges States to take special measures for the protection of girls, in particular to protect them from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV infection, gender-based violence, including rape, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, torture, abduction and forced labour, paying special attention to refugee and displaced girls, and to take into account their special needs in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation assistance and reintegration processes;

"32. *Deplores* all cases of sexual exploitation and abuse of women and children, especially girls, in humanitarian crises, including those cases involving humanitarian workers and peacekeepers, and urges States to take effective measures to address gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies and to make all possible efforts to ensure that their laws and institutions are adequate to prevent, promptly investigate and prosecute acts of gender-based violence;

"33. *Also deplores* all acts of sexual exploitation, abuse of and trafficking in women and children by military, police and civilian personnel involved in United Nations operations, welcomes the efforts undertaken by United Nations agencies and peacekeeping operations to implement a zero-tolerance policy in this regard, and requests the Secretary-General and personnel-contributing countries to continue to take all appropriate action necessary to combat these abuses by such personnel, including through the full implementation without delay of those measures adopted in the relevant General Assembly resolutions based on recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations;

"34. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media, to fully and effectively implement the relevant provisions of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the activities outlined therein;

"35. *Calls upon* Member States to devise, enforce and strengthen effective child- and youth-sensitive measures to combat, eliminate and prosecute all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy within wider efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including by taking effective measures against the criminalization of girls who are victims of exploitation and ensuring that girls who have been exploited receive access to the necessary psychosocial support;

"36. *Calls upon* Governments, civil society, including the media, and non-governmental organizations to promote human rights education and full respect for and the enjoyment of the human rights of the girl child, inter alia, through the translation, production and dissemination of age-appropriate and gender-sensitive information material on those rights to all sectors of society, in particular to children;

"37. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to ensure that all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, individually and collectively, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Labour Organization, take into account the rights and the particular needs of the girl child in country programmes of cooperation in accordance with national priorities, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

"38. *Requests* all human rights treaty bodies and the human rights mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, including the special procedures, to adopt regularly and systematically a gender perspective in the implementation of their mandates and to include in their reports information on the qualitative analysis of violations of the human rights of women and girls, and encourages the strengthening of cooperation and coordination in that regard;

"39. *Requests* States to ensure that, in all policies and programmes designed to provide comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support, particular attention and support is given to the girl child at risk, infected with or affected by HIV, including pregnant girls and young and adolescent mothers, with a view to achieving Millennium Development Goal 6, in particular to halt and begin to reverse by 2015 the spread of HIV;

"40. *Invites* States to promote initiatives aimed at reducing the prices of antiretroviral drugs, especially second-line drugs, available to the girl child, including bilateral and private sector initiatives as well as initiatives on a voluntary basis taken by groups of States, including those based on innovative financing mechanisms that contribute to the mobilization of resources for social development, including those that aim to provide further access to drugs at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis, and in this regard takes note of the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID;

"41. *Calls upon* all States to integrate food and nutritional support with the goal that children, especially girl children, have access at all times to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences, for an active and healthy life, as part of a comprehensive response to HIV and AIDS, other communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases;

"42. *Urges* States and the international community to increase resources at all levels, particularly in the education and health sectors, to enable young people, especially girls, to gain the knowledge, attitudes and life skills that they need to overcome their challenges;

"43. *Stresses* the need to strengthen the commitment of States and the United Nations system in their responsibility to mainstream the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, in particular the girl child, in the development agenda at the national, regional and international levels;

"44. *Urges* States, the international community, the relevant United Nations entities, civil society and international financial institutions to continue to actively support, through the allocation of increased financial resources, targeted innovative programmes that address ending female genital mutilation and developing and providing education programmes, such as the United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children's Fund joint programme on accelerating the abandonment of female genital mutilation, and sensitization workshops on the dire consequences of this harmful practice for the health of the girl, and to provide training programmes for those who perform the harmful procedure so that they may adopt an alternative profession;

"45. *Calls upon* States to strengthen the capacity of national health systems, and in this regard calls upon the international community to assist national efforts, including by allocation of adequate resources in order to provide essential services needed to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat those cases that occur by providing the continuum of services, including family planning, prenatal and post-natal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care and post-partum care, to adolescent girls, including those living in poverty and in underserved rural areas where obstetric fistula is most common;

"46. *Calls upon* States and the international community to create an environment in which the well-being of the girl child is ensured, inter alia, by cooperating, supporting and participating in global efforts for poverty eradication at the global, regional and country levels, recognizing that strengthened availability and effective allocation of resources are required at all levels, in order to ensure that all the internationally agreed development and poverty eradication goals, including those set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, are realized within their time framework, and reaffirming that investment in children, particularly girls, and the realization of their rights are among the most effective ways to eradicate poverty;

"47. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including an emphasis on child-headed families, their causes, effects and prospects, using information provided by Member States, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, with a view to assessing the impact of the present resolution on the well-being of the girl child."

14. At its 50th meeting, on 22 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "The girl child" (A/C.3/66/L.24/Rev.1), submitted by Angola, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Canada, China, Djibouti, Gabon, Ghana, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Turkey and Uganda, joined by Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chile, Colombia, the Comoros, the Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Niger, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Vanuatu.

15. At the same meeting, the representative of Angola, on behalf of the Southern African Development Community, orally revised the text as follows:

(a) In the eighth preambular paragraph, the word "meeting" was replaced by the word "meetings";

(b) In operative paragraph 19, the words "efforts to implement" were replaced by the words "efforts to enact and implement".

16. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.24/Rev.1, as orally revised (see para. 32, draft resolution II).

17. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representative of the United States and the observer for the Holy See (see A/C.3/66/SR.50).

C. Draft resolutions A/C.3/66/L.25 and Rev.1

18. At the 38th meeting, on 1 November, the representative of Poland, on behalf of Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern

Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Rights of the child" (A/C.3/66/L.25), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Reaffirming* all its previous resolutions on the rights of the child in their entirety, the most recent of which is resolution 65/197 of 21 December 2010,

"*Emphasizing* that the Convention on the Rights of the Child constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and bearing in mind the importance of the Optional Protocols to the Convention, calling for their universal ratification and effective implementation, as well as those of other human rights instruments,

"*Recalling* the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,

"*Reaffirming* that the general principles set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including, inter alia, the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development, provide the framework for all actions concerning children, including adolescents,

"*Reaffirming also* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled 'A world fit for children', and recalling the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action, the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum, the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, the Declaration on the Right to Development and the Declaration of the commemorative high-level plenary meeting devoted to the follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children, held in New York from 11 to 13 December 2007, as well as the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010,

"*Taking note with appreciation* of the reports of the Secretary-General on progress made towards achieving the commitments set out in the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly and on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in Assembly resolution 65/197, as well as the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, whose recommendations should be carefully studied, taking fully into account the views of Member States,

"*Acknowledging* the important role played by national governmental structures for children, including, where they exist, ministries and institutions in charge of child, family and youth issues and independent ombudspersons for children or other national institutions for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child,

"*Recognizing* that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

"*Taking note with appreciation* of the work to promote and protect the rights of the child carried out by all relevant organs, bodies, entities and organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and relevant mandate holders and special procedures of the United Nations, as well as relevant regional organizations, where appropriate, and intergovernmental organizations, and recognizing the valuable role of civil society, including non-governmental organizations,

"*Profoundly concerned* that the situation of children in many parts of the world has been negatively impacted by the world financial and economic crisis, and reaffirming that eradicating poverty continues to be the greatest global challenge facing the world today, recognizing its impact beyond the socio-economic context,

"*Profoundly concerned also* that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical, in an increasingly globalized environment, as a result of the persistence of poverty, social inequality, inadequate social and economic conditions, pandemics, in particular HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, environmental damage, natural disasters, armed conflict, foreign occupation, displacement, violence, terrorism, abuse, trafficking in children and their organs, all forms of exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation of children, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism, neglect, illiteracy, hunger, intolerance, discrimination, racism, xenophobia, gender inequality, disability and inadequate legal protection, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

"*Gravely concerned* about the devastating impact of some of the recent natural disasters, including on children, reaffirming the importance of providing speedy, sustainable and adequate humanitarian assistance in support of relief, early recovery, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development efforts of the affected countries, and reaffirming also the importance of ensuring that human rights, including child rights, are mainstreamed into these efforts,

"*Stressing* the need for the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and expressing the view that it will, inter alia, contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights of children, enhance cooperation and better coordination of efforts in fighting trafficking in persons and promote increased ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,

"I. Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto

"1. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 1 to 6 of its resolution 65/197 of 21 December 2010, and urges States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto as a matter of priority and to implement them fully;

"2. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General to promote the universal ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict ahead of the tenth anniversary in 2012 of their entry into force, and in that regard calls upon all States that have not done so to consider ratifying the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto and calls for the effective implementation of the Convention and the Optional Protocols by States parties to ensure that all children may fully enjoy all their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

"3. *Calls upon* States parties to withdraw reservations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or the Optional Protocols thereto and to consider reviewing regularly other reservations with a view to withdrawing them in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

"4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the adoption by the Human Rights Council of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child providing a communications procedure complementary to the reporting procedure under the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

"5. *Encourages* States parties, in implementing the provisions of the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto, to take note of the recommendations, observations and general comments of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, including, inter alia, general comment No. 9 (2006) on the rights of children with disabilities;

"6. *Welcomes* actions of the Committee to monitor the implementation by States parties of the Convention, and notes with appreciation its actions to follow up on its concluding observations and recommendations, and in this regard underlines, in particular, the regional workshops and the participation of the Committee in national-level initiatives;

"II. Promotion and protection of the rights of the child and non-discrimination against children

"Non-discrimination

"7. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 9 to 11 of its resolution 63/241 of 24 December 2008, and calls upon States to ensure the enjoyment by all children of all their civil, political, cultural, economic and social rights without discrimination of any kind;

"Registration, family relations and adoption or other forms of alternative care

"8. *Also reaffirms* paragraphs 12 to 16 of its resolution 63/241, and urges all States parties to intensify their efforts to comply with their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to protect children in matters relating to registration, family relations and adoption and other forms of alternative care, and, in cases of international parental or familial child abduction, encourages States to facilitate, inter alia, the return of the child to the country in which he or she resided immediately before the removal or retention;

"9. *Welcomes* the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, contained in the annex to its resolution 64/142 of 18 December 2009, as a set of orientations in matters relating to the protection and well-being of children who are in need of alternative care or who are at risk of being so;

"Economic and social well-being of children, eradication of poverty, right to education, right to enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and right to food

"10. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 17 to 26 of its resolution 63/241, paragraphs 42 to 52 of its resolution 61/146 of 19 December 2006, on the theme of children and poverty, and paragraphs 37 to 42 of its resolution 60/231 of 23 December 2005, on the theme of children living with or affected by HIV or AIDS, and calls upon all States and the international community to create an environment in which the well-being of the child is ensured, including by strengthening international cooperation in this field and by implementing their previous commitments relating to poverty eradication, the right to education, and measures to promote human rights education, in accordance with the evolving capacities of the child, the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including efforts to address the situation of children living with or affected by HIV or AIDS and to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, the right to food for all and the right to an adequate standard of living, including housing and clothing;

"11. *Recognizes* the threat to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, posed by the global financial and economic crisis, which is connected to multiple, interrelated global crises and challenges, such as the food crisis and continuing food insecurity, volatile energy and commodity prices, environmental degradation and climate change, and calls upon States to address, in their response to these crises, any negative impact on the full enjoyment of the rights of children;

"Elimination of violence against children

"12. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 27 to 32 of its resolution 63/241 and paragraphs 47 to 62 of its resolution 62/141 of 18 December 2007, on the theme of elimination of violence against children, condemns all forms of violence against children, and urges all States to implement the measures set out in paragraph 27 of its resolution 63/241;

"13. *Urges* States to take effective and appropriate legislative and other measures or, where such measures exist, to strengthen legislation to prohibit and eliminate all forms of violence against children, in all settings;

"14. *Encourages* all States, requests United Nations entities and agencies, and invites regional organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and to provide support, including financial support, to her for the effective and independent performance of her mandate, as set out in resolution 62/141, and in promoting the further implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on violence against children, while promoting and ensuring country ownership and national plans and programmes or other related relevant instruments in this regard, and calls upon States and institutions concerned, and invites the private sector, to provide voluntary contributions for that purpose;

"15. *Notes with appreciation* the consolidated partnerships promoted by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, in coordination with national Governments, United Nations agencies, regional organizations, human rights bodies and mechanisms and representatives of civil society and with the participation of children;

"16. *Takes note with appreciation* of the joint report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children on effective and child-sensitive counselling, and complaint and reporting mechanisms to which children can safely report incidents of violence, including sexual violence and exploitation;

"Promoting and protecting the rights of children, including children in particularly difficult situations

"17. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 34 to 42 of its resolution 63/241, and calls upon all States to promote and protect all human rights of all children in particularly difficult situations and to implement programmes and measures that provide them with special protection and assistance, including access to health care, education and social services, as well as, where appropriate and feasible, voluntary repatriation, reintegration, family tracing and family reunification, in particular for children who are unaccompanied, and to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration;

"18. *Recalls* Human Rights Council resolution 16/12 of 24 March 2011, entitled 'Rights of the child: a holistic approach to the protection and promotion on the rights of children working and/or living on the street', and calls on States to adopt and implement policies for the protection, social and psychosocial rehabilitation and reintegration of children working or living on the street;

"Children alleged to have infringed or recognized as having infringed penal law and children of persons alleged to have infringed or recognized as having infringed penal law

"19. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 43 to 47 of its resolution 63/241, and calls upon all States to respect and protect the rights of children alleged to have infringed or recognized as having infringed penal law, as well as children of persons alleged to have infringed or recognized as having infringed penal law;

"Prevention and eradication of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

"20. *Also reaffirms* paragraphs 48 to 50 of its resolution 63/241, and calls upon all States to prevent, criminalize, prosecute and punish all forms of the sale of children, including for the purposes of the transfer of organs of the child for profit, child slavery, commercial sexual exploitation of children, child prostitution and child pornography, with the aim of eradicating those practices and the use of the Internet and other information and communications technologies for these purposes, to combat the existence of a market that encourages such criminal practices and take measures to eliminate the demand that fosters them, as well as to address the needs of victims effectively and take effective measures against the criminalization of children who are victims of exploitation;

"21. *Calls upon* all States to develop and implement programmes and policies to protect children from sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation, child prostitution, child pornography, child sex tourism and child abduction, and calls upon States to implement strategies to locate and assist all children subject to these violations;

"22. *Also calls upon* all States to enact and enforce necessary legislative or other measures, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to prevent the distribution over the Internet and in all other media of child pornography, including depictions of child sexual abuse, ensuring that adequate mechanisms are in place to enable the reporting and removal of such material and that its creators, distributors and collectors are prosecuted as appropriate;

"Children affected by armed conflict

"23. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 51 to 63 of its resolution 63/241, condemns in the strongest terms all violations and abuses committed against children affected by armed conflict, and in this regard urges all States and other parties to armed conflict that are engaged, in contravention of applicable international law, including humanitarian law, in the recruitment and use of children, in patterns of killing and maiming of children and/or rape and other sexual violence against children in attacks on schools and hospitals, as well as in all other violations and abuses against children, to take time-bound and effective measures to end them, and urges all States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, other relevant international and regional organizations and civil society to continue to give serious attention to, and to protect and assist child victims of, all violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict, in accordance with international humanitarian law, including the First to Fourth Geneva Conventions;

"24. *Also reaffirms* the essential roles of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Council for the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of children, including children affected by armed conflict, notes the increasing role played by the Security Council in ensuring protection for children affected by armed conflict, and also notes the activities undertaken by the Peacebuilding Commission, within its mandate, in areas that promote and contribute to the enjoyment of the rights and welfare of children;

"25. *Notes with appreciation* the steps taken regarding Security Council resolutions 1539 (2004) of 22 April 2004, 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 and 1998 (2011) of 12 July 2011 and the efforts of the Secretary-General to implement the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict in accordance with those resolutions, with the participation of and in cooperation with national Governments and relevant United Nations and civil society actors, including at the country level, requests the Secretary-General to ensure that information collected and communicated by the monitoring and reporting mechanism is accurate, objective, reliable and verifiable, and in this regard encourages the work and the deployment, as appropriate, of United Nations child protection advisers in peacekeeping operations and political and peacebuilding missions;

"Child labour

"26. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 64 to 80 of its resolution 63/241, on the theme of child labour, and calls upon all States to translate into concrete action their commitment to the progressive and effective elimination of child labour that is likely to be hazardous or to have a negative impact on the child's education or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development, and to eliminate immediately the worst forms of child labour;

"27. *Notes with interest* the outcome of the Hague Global Child Labour Conference, including the Road Map for Achieving the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016;

"28. *Calls upon* all States to take into account the report of the Director-General of the International Labour Organization on the global child labour situation, entitled 'Accelerating action against child labour';

"29. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying both the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (Convention No. 182), and the Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, 1973 (Convention No. 138), of the International Labour Organization;

"Implementing child rights in early childhood

"30. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 28 to 45 of its resolution 65/197, reaffirming that early childhood is a critical phase for the realization of all the rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and urges all States to implement the measures set out in paragraph 43 of the resolution;

"III. The rights of children with disabilities

"31. *Reaffirms* that all children with disabilities are entitled to the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children, as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and that the full and effective implementation of those instruments is an important step towards the realization of the rights of children with disabilities, including respect for their evolving capacities and for their right to preserve their identity;

"32. *Stresses* the importance of international cooperation in building national capacity for improving the living conditions of persons with disabilities in every country, in particular in developing countries;

"33. *Recognizes* that discrimination against any child on the basis of disability is a violation of the inherent dignity and worth of the child, and expresses grave concern that children with disabilities face discriminatory, attitudinal and environmental barriers to their participation and inclusion in society and in the community, on an equal basis with other children, as well as violations of their human rights in all parts of the world;

"34. *Concerned* that children with disabilities, in particular girls, are often at greater risk, both within and outside the home, of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment and maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse;

"35. *Recognizes* that the majority of children with disabilities live in poverty, reaffirms that the eradication of poverty is essential to the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals and to the full realization of the rights of all children, also reaffirms the commitments set out in the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, adopted on 22 October 2010, and acknowledges that equitable access to economic opportunities and social services, as close as possible to children's own communities, is an integral part of relevant strategies for sustainable development;

"36. *Also recognizes* that children with disabilities are often denied the right to a family environment and to live and be included in their communities, and in this regard reaffirms that they have equal rights with respect to family and community life and should not be separated from their parents against their will nor on the basis of disability of either the child or one or both of the parents, except when such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child;

"37. *Expresses concern* at the number of children with disabilities who continue to be denied the right to education, and reaffirms the right of all children to education on the basis of equal opportunity and universal accessibility, and the right of children with disabilities to have effective access to and to receive education in a manner conducive to their fullest possible social inclusion and individual development, including their cultural and spiritual development;

"38. *Recognizes* that early education is particularly important for children with disabilities, and that the measures taken to implement the right to

education of children with disabilities should be aimed at ensuring their maximum inclusion in society, free from discrimination;

"39. *Reaffirms* that States should take effective and appropriate measures to ensure that children with disabilities retain their fertility on an equal basis with others, and that adolescent boys and girls have access to information and education, including on reproductive and family planning, that is age-appropriate and in an accessible format;

"40. *Recognizes* that children with disabilities are particularly vulnerable in situations of risk, including armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, and reaffirms the obligations of States to take all measures necessary to ensure their safety and protection in such situations, including through the review of their emergency response programmes and support facilities to make them accessible to children with disabilities;

"41. *Calls upon* all States to include, within the overall context of policies and programmes, appropriate provisions for the realization of the rights of children with disabilities, and, in particular, urges all States and regional integration organizations that have not yet done so:

"(a) To consider acceding to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, and to do so as a matter of priority;

"(b) To ensure that the rights of children with disabilities are fully respected, protected and fulfilled by, as appropriate, undertaking comprehensive reviews, as necessary, of all domestic laws, related regulations and policies in order to certify that all provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities are applicable to all children, including children with disabilities;

"(c) To prohibit discrimination against children with disabilities on the basis of disability and guarantee equal and effective legal protection against discrimination;

"(d) To take appropriate measures to ensure that children with disabilities have access, on an equal basis with others, to information on their rights, including through human rights education and training, so that they can identify, prevent and act upon violations against them, as well as access to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications technologies and to systems and other facilities and services that are open, accessible and provided to the public both in urban and in rural areas;

"(e) To take all measures necessary to ensure the registration of children with disabilities immediately after birth, including by removing barriers that impede their registration, and to guarantee their right to a name, their right to a nationality and, as far as possible, their right to know and be cared for by their parents;

"(f) To implement fully the commitments set out in United Nations General Assembly resolutions 65/186 of 21 December 2010 and 64/131 of 18 December 2009, in particular, to ensure that children with disabilities are rendered visible in the collection and analysis of data, by setting up and developing mechanisms for the collection of information, including statistical

and research data on the situation of children with disabilities which are accurate, standardized and allow for disaggregation on the basis of sex, age and disability;

"(g) To adopt, implement and strengthen appropriate policies aimed at ensuring the right to an adequate standard of living of children with disabilities and their families, along with universal access to quality and affordable services, especially health care, nutrition, education, welfare, social protection, safe drinking water, sanitation and other services that are essential for the child's well-being, and, in this regard, to pay particular attention to the most vulnerable children and those living under especially difficult circumstances;

"(h) To ensure that children with disabilities have access to the same range, quality and standard of free, affordable, gender-sensitive and age-appropriate health care and programmes as are provided to other children, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health, and to take measures to prohibit by law the forced abortion and sterilization of children on grounds of disability;

"(i) To ensure equal access for children with disabilities to appropriate, timely, affordable and high-quality rehabilitation interventions within the existing health-care infrastructure, consistent with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and to strengthen rehabilitation service provision through community-based rehabilitation;

"(j) To ensure that community and civil society institutions, services and facilities responsible for children with disabilities comply with national and local quality standards, especially in the areas of health and social protection, and to develop training programmes to ensure a quality, suitable and well-trained workforce with a view to the inclusion of children with disabilities;

"(k) To prevent the concealment, abandonment, neglect or segregation of children with disabilities by, inter alia, bringing to an end the practice of the separation of children with disabilities from their families, unless it is in the best interests of the child, recognizing that in such cases the children are entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State, and considering the introduction of a time-bound commitment to replacing institutionalization with appropriate measures to support family and community care and transferring resources to community-based support services and other forms of alternative care;

"(l) To develop strategies for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children with disabilities, who are particularly vulnerable to cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment, medical or scientific experimentation, and sexual and physical violence, including bullying and cyberbullying, and to develop and introduce child- and gender-sensitive, accessible, safe and confidential reporting and complaints mechanisms;

"(m) To adopt legislative and other appropriate measures, including cross-sectoral approaches, to ensure the full realization of the right to education of children with disabilities, including by providing accessible, free and compulsory primary education on the basis of equal opportunity, accessibility and inclusiveness, directed at the development of their

personality, talents and mental and physical abilities, from early childhood care and development to vocational training and preparation for work;

"(n) To ensure the realization of the right of children with disabilities to access on an equal basis to participation in play, recreation, culture, leisure and sporting activities, including in the preschool and school system;

"(o) To introduce specific measures to ensure the realization of the right of children with disabilities to express their views freely on all matters affecting them, their views being given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity, on an equal basis with other children, and to be provided with disability and age-appropriate assistance for the realization of that right;

"(p) To take all appropriate measures to ensure the protection and safety of children with disabilities in situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including adopting and implementing programmes to ensure the physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of children with disabilities, including children who acquire disability as a consequence of such situations of risk, and to ensure that such recovery and reintegration take place in an environment which fosters the health, self-respect and dignity of the child;

"(q) To take all measures necessary to ensure that persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, are closely consulted and actively involved in the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities;

"42. *Calls upon* all Member States, and invites the United Nations system, to strengthen international cooperation to ensure the realization of the rights of the child, including the rights of children with disabilities, by, inter alia, supporting national initiatives that give more emphasis to their development, as appropriate;

"43. *Calls upon* the relevant entities, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, donor institutions, including the international financial institutions, and bilateral donors to support, inter alia, national initiatives, when requested, including development programmes for children with disabilities, financially and technically, as well as to enhance effective international cooperation and partnership to strengthen knowledge-sharing and capacity-building for children with disabilities, in terms of policy development, programme development, research and professional training;

"44. *Calls upon* all Member States, and invites the United Nations, to focus increased attention on children with disabilities in all relevant work for children and adolescents, including in the Education for All agenda;

"IV. Follow-up

"45. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict,

recognizes the increased level of activity of her Office and the progress achieved since the establishment of the mandate of the Special Representative, and, bearing in mind its resolution 60/231, recommends that the Secretary-General extend the mandate of the Special Representative for a further period of four years;

"46. *Decides*:

"(a) To request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a comprehensive report on the rights of the child containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in the present resolution, with a focus on indigenous children;

"(b) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the discharge of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the children and armed conflict agenda;

"(c) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children to continue to submit annual reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the discharge of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the agenda concerning violence against children;

"(d) To request the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the discharge of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the agenda concerning the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

"(e) To invite the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to present an oral report on the work of the Committee to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

"(f) To continue its consideration of the question at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled 'Promotion and protection of the rights of children', focusing section III of the resolution entitled 'Rights of the child' on the rights of indigenous children."

19. At its 50th meeting, on 22 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Rights of the child" (A/C.3/66/L.25/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.25, Iceland, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland, joined by Algeria, Andorra, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Benin, Burkina Faso, Canada, the Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, India, Israel, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, the Philippines, Rwanda, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tunisia, the United States of America, Vanuatu and Zimbabwe.

20. At the same meeting, the representative of Poland, on behalf of the European Union, orally revised the text as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 8, the words "adoption and other forms of alternative care" were replaced by the words "adoption or other forms of alternative care";

(b) At the end of operative paragraph 18, the words "stresses the importance of the adoption and implementation by States of appropriate policies in this regard" were replaced by the words "calls for its full implementation";

(c) In operative paragraph 23, the word "recurrent" was added before the words "attacks on schools and/or hospitals";

(d) In operative paragraph 32, the words "building national capacity for improving the living conditions of children with disabilities in every country, in particular in developing countries" were replaced by the words "supporting national efforts for the realization of the rights of children with disabilities, recognizing the importance of taking appropriate and effective measures among States that aim at facilitating and supporting capacity-building, including through the exchange and sharing of information, experiences, training programmes and best practices";

(e) In operative paragraph 33, the words "violations of their human rights as well as" were added before the words "discriminatory, attitudinal and environmental barriers"; and the words "as well as violations of their human rights in all parts of the world" were deleted at the end of the paragraph;

(f) Operative paragraph 35, which read:

> "35. *Recognizes* that the majority of children with disabilities live in poverty, reaffirms that the eradication of poverty is essential to the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals and to the full realization of the rights of all children, also reaffirms its resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010, and acknowledges that equitable access to economic opportunities and social services, as close as possible to children's own communities, is an integral part of relevant strategies for sustainable development",

was replaced by:

> "35. *Reaffirms* that the eradication of poverty is essential to the achievement of all Millennium Development Goals and to the full realization of the rights of all children including those with disabilities, and also reaffirms resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010";

(g) A new operative paragraph 36 was inserted after new paragraph 35, reading:

> "36. *Recognizes* that the majority of children with disabilities live in poverty and that equitable access to economic opportunities and social services, as close as possible to children's own communities, is an important part of relevant strategies for sustainable development",

and the subsequent paragraphs were renumbered accordingly;

(h) After operative paragraph 37 (former paragraph 36), a new paragraph 38 was inserted, reading:

"38. *Recognizes* the importance of preventing the concealment, abandonment, neglect or segregation of children with disabilities and, in this regard, encourages States to consider the introduction of a commitment towards replacing institutionalization with appropriate measures to support family and community care, and transferring resources to community-based support services and other forms of alternative care";

(i) In operative paragraph 41 (former paragraph 39), the words "with disabilities" were added after the word "girls";

(j) In operative paragraph 42 (former paragraph 40), the words "under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law" were added after the words "obligations of States";

(k) Operative paragraph 43 (a) (former paragraph 41 (a)), which read:

"To consider acceding to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, and to do so as a matter of priority",

was replaced by:

"*Urges* all States that have not yet done so to consider acceding to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, and to do so as a matter of priority, and invites regional integration organizations that have the relevant competence to do so, as defined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to consider accession to the Convention";

(l) In operative paragraph 43 (a) (former 41 (d)), the word "all" was deleted before the word "children" and the words "so that they can identify, prevent and act upon violations against them" were replaced by the words "enabling them to contribute to identifying, preventing and acting upon violations of their rights";

(m) In operative paragraph 43 (h) (former 41 (h)), the words "to collect relevant information" were replaced by the words "to collect and disaggregate relevant information"; and the word "disaggregated" was deleted before the words "as appropriate";

(n) In operative paragraph 43 (c) (former 41 (i)), the words "universal access" were replaced by the words "equal access"; and the words "children with disabilities living under especially difficult circumstances" were replaced by the words "those living under especially difficult circumstances";

(o) In operative paragraph 43 (j) (former 41 (j)), the words "by law" were deleted after the word "prohibit";

(p) In operative paragraph 43 (k) (former 41 (k)), the words "health-care infrastructure" were replaced by the words "health infrastructure"; and the words "strengthen community-based rehabilitation service provisions" were replaced by the words "strengthen the provision of community-based rehabilitation services";

(q) Operative paragraph 43 (m) (former 41 (m)), which read:

"(m) To prevent the concealment, abandonment, neglect or segregation of children with disabilities by, inter alia, bringing to an end the practice of the separation of children with disabilities from their families, unless it is in the

best interests of the child, in these cases recognizing that the children are entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State, and to consider the introduction of a commitment towards replacing institutionalization with appropriate measures to support family and community care, and transferring resources to community-based support services and other forms of alternative care",

was deleted;

(r) In operative paragraph 43 (m) (former 41 (n)), the words "to develop, and/or include in existing strategies" were replaced by the words "to develop strategies, or include in existing strategies";

(s) In operative paragraph 43 (q) (former 41 (r)), the words "in situations of armed conflict" were replaced by the words "during and after situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict"; and the words "such recovery and reintegration" were replaced by the words "such recovery, reintegration and rehabilitation";

(t) Operative paragraph 44, which read:

"44. *Calls upon* all Member States, and invites the United Nations, to focus increased attention on children with disabilities in all relevant work for children and adolescents, including in the Education for All agenda as determined in the goals of Education for All",

was deleted;

(u) In operative paragraph 46 (former paragraph 45), the words "*Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the Special Representative" were replaced by the words "*Recognizes* the work of the office of the Special Representative"; and the words "and paragraphs 35 to 37 of resolution 51/77 of 12 December 1996" were added after the words "resolution 63/241";

(v) In operative paragraph 47 (former paragraph 46), the words "bearing in mind relevant international norms and standards and regional and national particularities" were added at the end of the paragraph;

(w) Operative paragraph 47 (f) (former 46 (f)), which read:

"To continue its consideration of the question at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children", focusing section III of the resolution entitled "Rights of the child" on the rights of indigenous children",

was replaced by

"To continue its consideration of the question at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children", focusing section III of the resolution entitled "Rights of the child" on indigenous children, bearing in mind relevant international norms and standards and regional and national particularities."

21. Also at the 50th meeting, the representative of Pakistan orally proposed an amendment to the draft resolution, by which a new subparagraph (g) would be added to operative paragraph 47 (former paragraph 46), reading:

["*Decides*:]

"(g) That all mandate holders should exercise their functions independently, impartially and in full observance of their respective mandates."

22. Statements were made by the representatives of Poland and Pakistan, after which the representative of Poland requested a recorded vote on the proposed amendment.

23. Before the vote, statements were made by the representatives of Uruguay, Malaysia, Peru, the Russian Federation, Poland, the United States and Jamaica (see A/C.3/66/SR.50).

24. The proposed amendment was rejected by a recorded vote of 78 to 48, with 21 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritania, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu.

Abstaining:

Afghanistan, Angola, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uzbekistan, Zambia.

25. Also at the 50th meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic orally proposed an amendment to the third preambular paragraph of the draft resolution, whereby the words "and all Geneva Conventions of 1949" would be inserted at the end of the paragraph.

26. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America requested a recorded vote on the proposed amendment.

27. Before the vote, statements were made by the representatives of the United States and Poland (see A/C.3/66/SR.50).

28. The proposed amendment was rejected by a recorded vote of 78 to 26, with 27 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen.

Against:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu.

Abstaining:

Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Uzbekistan.

29. Also at its 50th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.25/Rev.1, as orally revised (see para. 32, draft resolution III).

30. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, the United States and the Russian Federation, and by the observer for the Holy See (see A/C.3/66/SR.50).

D. Draft decision proposed by the Chair

31. At its 50th meeting, on 22 November, on the proposal of the Chair, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of documents considered in connection with the question of the promotion and protection of the rights of children (see para. 33).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

32. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Strengthening collaboration on child protection within the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Convention on the Rights of the Child[1] and its Optional Protocols,[2] and reaffirming all its previous resolutions on the rights of the child,

Recognizing the primary role and responsibility of the State in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection, bearing in mind the importance of relevant actors of the United Nations supporting the State in this regard,

Reaffirming that the best interest of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development provide the framework for all actions concerning children, including those of a State and all relevant actors of the United Nations dealing with the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection,

Recognizing the important role and the continuing work of the United Nations system and all its relevant actors in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection, and recognizing also the role and contribution of civil society in this regard,

Stressing that further strengthening collaboration within the United Nations system on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection, is important for continuing to support efforts of Member States in the realization of the rights of the child and, in this regard, reaffirms the important role that the General Assembly continues to play in strengthening collaboration and coherence within the United Nations system,

1. *Welcomes* the existing collaboration among relevant actors of the United Nations working on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection, and encourages them, within existing resources and mandates, to highlight information on such collaboration in their existing reports to the General Assembly and to also address this issue within the framework of the existing Third Committee interactive dialogue under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children", and invites these United Nations actors to further enhance their collaboration;

2. *Reiterates* the importance of all relevant actors of the United Nations on child protection continuing to exercise their functions in a fully independent manner and acting in full observance of their respective mandates;

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[2] Ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531.

3. *Underlines* the importance of sustained, adequate resources and support for the work of the United Nations system on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection, and, in this regard, strongly encourages enhanced voluntary contributions to support the work of all relevant actors of the United Nations, so as to support technical assistance and capacity-building in the area of child protection;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the current collaboration within the United Nations system on child protection, taking into account information provided by Member States and relevant actors of the United Nations.

Draft resolution II
The girl child

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 64/145 of 18 December 2009 and all relevant resolutions, including the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women, in particular those relevant to the girl child,

Reaffirming also the equal rights of women and men as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling all human rights and other instruments relevant to the rights of the child, in particular the girl child, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[1] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[2] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[3] the Optional Protocols thereto[4] and the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages,[5]

Reaffirming the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the commitments relevant to the girl child made at the 2005 World Summit,[6] and welcoming the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals",[7]

Reaffirming also the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",[8] the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted at the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, entitled "Global Crisis — Global Action",[9] and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS of 2006,[10]

Reaffirming further all other relevant outcomes of major United Nations summits and conferences relevant to the girl child, as well as their five- and ten-year reviews, including the Beijing Declaration[11] and Platform for Action[12] adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[13] the Programme of Action of

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[2] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[3] Resolution 61/106, annex I.
[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378; and resolution 61/106, annex II.
[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 521, No. 7525.
[6] See resolution 60/1.
[7] See resolution 65/1.
[8] Resolution S-27/2, annex.
[9] Resolution S-26/2, annex.
[10] Resolution 60/262, annex.
[11] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.
[12] Ibid., annex II.
[13] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

the International Conference on Population and Development[14] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[15] as well as the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fifth session,[16] at which it considered "Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work" as its priority theme,

Welcoming the adoption by the Commission on the Status of Women of the declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[17] and reiterating that full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in particular the strategic objectives relating to the girl child, is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling the outcomes of the recent high-level meetings of the General Assembly relevant to the girl child,

Recalling also the Secretary-General's 2008-2015 campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the call upon Governments, civil society, women's organizations, young people, the private sector, the media and the entire United Nations system to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women and girls,

Reaffirming the importance of gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system, including in relation to the girl child,

Recognizing that chronic poverty remains the single biggest obstacle to meeting the needs of and promoting and protecting the rights of children and that urgent national and international action is therefore required to eliminate it, and noting that the burden of the global financial and economic crisis, the energy crisis, the food crisis and the continuing food insecurity as a result of various factors is felt directly by households, especially those depending on income from the informal sector, and particularly by women and girls,

Recognizing also that girl children are often at greater risk of being exposed to and encountering various forms of discrimination and violence, which continue to hinder efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and reaffirming the need to achieve gender equality to ensure a just and equitable world for girls, including through partnering with men and boys, as an important strategy for advancing the rights of the girl child,

Recognizing further that progress has been made in the adoption of national legislation that affirms the equality of girls and boys and that corresponding measures have not been taken to effectively implement such legislation, and recognizing the continuing existence of discrimination against women and girls

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[14] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[15] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[16] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 7* (E/2011/27), chap. I, sect. A.

[17] Ibid., *2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and Corr.1), chap I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2010/232.

throughout the world and that addressing this situation will require additional efforts to strengthen policy implementation, including through international cooperation,

Recognizing that the empowerment of and investment in girls which is critical for economic growth, and the achievement of all Millennium Development Goals, including the eradication of poverty and extreme poverty, as well as the meaningful participation of girls in decisions that affect them, are key in breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and in promoting and protecting the full and effective enjoyment of their human rights, and recognizing also that empowering girls requires their active participation in decision-making processes, and active support and engagement of their parents, legal guardians, families and care providers, boys and men, as well as the wider community,

Deeply concerned about all forms of violence against children, in particular the phenomena that disproportionately affect girls, such as commercial sexual exploitation and child pornography, child and forced marriages, rape, sexual abuse, domestic violence and trafficking in persons and, in addition, about the corresponding lack of accountability and impunity, which reflect discriminatory norms reinforcing the lower status of girls in society,

Deeply concerned also that violence against women and girls is under-recognized, particularly at the community level, and underreported or unrecorded because of stigma, fear, social tolerance and the often illegal and covert nature of such activities,

Deeply concerned further about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access for girls to education, and to quality education, nutrition and physical and mental health care, in girls enjoying fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys, and in leaving them more vulnerable than boys to the consequences of unprotected and premature sexual relations and often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and violence, abuse, rape, incest, honour-related crimes and harmful traditional practices, such as female infanticide, child and forced marriages, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation,

Deeply concerned that child and forced marriages expose young married girls to greater risk of HIV and sexually transmitted infections, often lead to early childbearing and increase the risk of disability, stillbirth and maternal death, and reduce their opportunities to complete their education, gain comprehensive knowledge, participate in the community or develop employable skills, and violate and impair the full enjoyment of the human rights of women and girls,

Deeply concerned also that early pregnancy and early childbearing and limited access to sexual reproductive health care, including in the area of skilled birth attendants and emergency obstetric care, cause high prevalences of obstetric fistula and high levels of maternal mortality and morbidity and furthermore entail complications during pregnancy and childbirth which often lead to death, particularly for young women and girls,

Recognizing that progress towards ending child and forced marriages can have a positive impact on indicators related to girls' education, maternal health and child health, thereby contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

Deeply concerned that, despite their widespread practice, child and forced marriages are still underreported, and recognizing that this requires further attention,

Deeply concerned also that female genital mutilation violates and impairs the full enjoyment of the human rights of women and girls and that it is an irreparable and irreversible harmful practice, and that the goal of ending female genital mutilation by 2010, set out in the document entitled "A world fit for children", remains unmet,

Deeply concerned further that, in situations of poverty, war and armed conflict, girl children are among those most affected and furthermore become the victims of sexual violence, abuse and exploitation and sexually transmitted infections and diseases, including HIV and AIDS, which have a serious impact on the quality of their lives and leave them open to further discrimination, violence and neglect, thus limiting their potential for full development,

Emphasizing that increased access to education for young people, especially girls, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, dramatically lowers their vulnerability to preventable diseases, in particular HIV infection and sexually transmitted diseases,

Recognizing that early childbearing continues to be an impediment to the improvement of the educational and social status of girls in all parts of the world and that, overall, child and forced marriages and early motherhood can severely curtail their educational opportunities and are likely to have a long-term, adverse impact on their employment opportunities and on their and their children's quality of life,

Convinced that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance reveal themselves in a differentiated manner for women and girls and can be among the factors leading to a deterioration in their living conditions, poverty, violence, multiple forms of discrimination and limitation or denial of their human rights,

Recognizing that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple forms of discrimination, including in respect of their access to education and employment, and the importance of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in this regard,

Noting with concern that, in some parts of the world, men outnumber women as a result, in part, of harmful attitudes and practices, such as female genital mutilation, son preference, which results in female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, early marriage, including child marriage, violence against women, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and discrimination against girls in food allocation and in other practices related to health and well-being, with the result that fewer girls than boys survive into adulthood,

Deeply concerned that the phenomenon of child-headed households, in particular those headed by girls, is becoming a serious social problem,

Deeply concerned also that the impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, including illness and mortality, erosion of the extended family, exacerbation of poverty, unemployment and underemployment, and migration, as well as urbanization, have contributed to the increase in the number of child-headed households,

Recognizing that women and girls bear the disproportionate burden of caring for and supporting those living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, and that this impacts negatively on girls by depriving them of their childhood and diminishing their opportunities to receive an education,

1. *Stresses* the need for full and urgent implementation of the rights of the girl child as provided to her under human rights instruments, and urges States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[1] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[2] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[3] and the Optional Protocols thereto[4] as a matter of priority;

2. *Urges* all States that have not yet signed and ratified or acceded to the Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, 1973 (Convention No. 138) and the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (Convention No. 182) of the International Labour Organization to consider doing so;

3. *Urges* all Governments and the United Nations system to strengthen efforts bilaterally and with international organizations and private sector donors in order to achieve the goals of the World Education Forum,[18] in particular that of eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, which have not been fully met, and to implement the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative as a means of reaching this goal, and calls for the implementation of and reaffirms the commitments contained in the Education for All goals and the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those related to gender and education;

4. *Calls upon* all States to place enhanced emphasis on quality education for the girl child, including catch-up and literacy education for those who did not receive formal education, to promote access to skills and entrepreneurial training for young women and to tackle male and female stereotypes in order to ensure that young women entering the labour market have opportunities to obtain full and productive employment and decent work;

5. *Encourages* States to promote the development of gender-sensitive curricula for educational programmes at all levels and take concrete measures to ensure that educational materials portray women and men, youth, girls and boys in positive and non-stereotypic roles, particularly in the teaching of scientific and technological subjects, in order to address the root causes of segregation in working life;

6. *Calls upon* States and the international community to recognize the right to education on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination by making primary education compulsory and available free to all children, and ensuring that all children have access to education of good quality, as well as making secondary education generally available and accessible to all, in particular through the progressive introduction of free education, bearing in mind that special measures to ensure equal access, including affirmative action, contribute to achieving equal opportunity and combating exclusion, and ensuring school attendance, in particular for girls and children from low-income families;

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[18] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

7. *Calls upon* States, with the support of international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, to develop policies and programmes, giving priority to formal and informal education programmes, including age-appropriate sex education, with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, that support girls and enable them to acquire knowledge, develop self-esteem and take responsibility for their own lives, and to place special focus on programmes to educate women and men, especially parents, about the importance of girls' physical and mental health and well-being, including the elimination of discrimination against girls in child and forced marriages;

8. *Calls upon* all States and international and non-governmental organizations, individually and collectively, to implement further the Beijing Platform for Action,[12] in particular the strategic objectives relating to the girl child, and the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[19] and to mobilize all necessary resources and support in order to achieve the goals and strategic objectives and actions set out in the Beijing Declaration[11] and Platform for Action;

9. *Calls upon* all States to take measures to address the obstacles that continue to affect the achievement of the goals set forth in the Beijing Platform for Action, as contained in paragraph 33 of the further actions and initiatives,[19] where appropriate, including the strengthening of national mechanisms to implement policies and programmes for the girl child and, in some cases, to enhance coordination among responsible institutions for the realization of the human rights of girls, as indicated in the further actions and initiatives;

10. *Urges* States to strengthen efforts to urgently eradicate all forms of discrimination against women and girls, and, where applicable, to remain dedicated to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[2] and the Optional Protocol thereto;[20]

11. *Also urges* States to fulfil the pledges that they made at the Fourth World Conference on Women and at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly to modify or abolish remaining laws that discriminate against women and girls;

12. *Further urges* States to improve the situation of girl children living in poverty, deprived of nutrition, water and sanitation facilities, with limited or no access to basic physical and mental health-care services, shelter, education, participation and protection, taking into account that, while a severe lack of goods and services hurts every human being, it is most threatening and harmful to the girl child, leaving her unable to enjoy her rights, to reach her full potential and to participate as a full member of society;

13. *Urges* States to ensure that the applicable requirements of the International Labour Organization for the employment of girls and boys are respected and effectively enforced and that girls who are employed have equal access to decent work, and equal payment and remuneration, are protected from economic exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and abuse in the workplace, are aware of their rights and have access to formal and non-formal

[19] Resolution S-23/3, annex.

[20] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2131, No. 20378.

education, skills development and vocational training, and also urges States to develop gender-sensitive measures, including national action plans, where appropriate, to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, including commercial sexual exploitation, slavery-like practices, forced and bonded labour, trafficking and hazardous forms of child labour;

14. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening health systems, in particular primary health care and the need to integrate the HIV response into it, and notes that weak health systems, which already face many challenges, including a lack of trained health workers and insufficient retention of skilled health workers, are among the biggest barriers to accessing health care;

15. *Calls upon* States, with the support of relevant stakeholders including the private sector, civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, as appropriate, to take all measures necessary to ensure the right of girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, and to develop sustainable health systems and social services;

16. *Urges* all States to promote gender equality and equal access to basic social services, such as education, nutrition, birth registration, health care, including sexual and reproductive health, vaccinations and protection from diseases representing the major causes of mortality, including non-communicable diseases, and to mainstream a gender perspective in all development policies and programmes, including those relating to children as well as those specific to the girl child;

17. *Calls upon* States, with the support of international organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the media, to take appropriate measures to address the root factors of child and forced marriages, including by undertaking educational activities to raise awareness regarding the negative aspects of such practices;

18. *Urges* all States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses, and, in addition, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage and raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary, and to develop and implement comprehensive policies, plans of action and programmes for the survival, protection, development and advancement of the girl child in order to promote and protect the full enjoyment of her human rights and to ensure equal opportunities for girls, including by making such plans an integral part of her total development process;

19. *Urges* States to ensure that efforts to enact and implement legislation to end child and forced marriages engage all stakeholders and agents of change and ensure that the information on the legislation against the practice is well known and generates social support for the enforcement of such laws and legislation;

20. *Calls upon* States to support community workshops and discussion sessions, to enable communities to collectively explore ways to prevent and address child and forced marriages, provide information through stakeholders who are credible to the community, such as medical personnel and local, community and religious leaders, regarding the harm associated with these marriages, give greater

voice to girls, and ensure consistence of message throughout the entire community, and to encourage the much-needed strong engagement of men and boys;

21. *Also calls upon* States to support and implement, including with dedicated resources, multisectoral policies and programmes that end the practice of child and forced marriages and ensure the provision of viable alternatives and institutional support, especially educational opportunities for girls, with an emphasis on keeping girls in school through post-primary education, including those who are already married or pregnant, ensuring physical access to education, including by establishing safe residential facilities, increasing financial incentives to families, promoting the empowerment of girls, improving educational quality, and ensuring safe and hygienic conditions in schools;

22. *Further calls upon* States to strengthen research, data collection and analysis on the girl child, disaggregated by sex, age and geographical location, in order to provide a better understanding of the situations of girls, especially of the multiple forms of discrimination that they face, and to develop necessary policies and programme responses, which should take a holistic approach to addressing the full range of the forms of discrimination that girls may face, in order to protect their rights effectively;

23. *Urges* States to take all necessary measures to ensure the full enjoyment by girls with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children, and to adopt, implement and strengthen appropriate policies and programmes designed to address their needs;

24. *Urges* all States to enact and enforce legislation to protect girls from all forms of violence and exploitation, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, female genital mutilation, rape, domestic violence, incest, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography, trafficking and forced migration, forced labour, and forced marriage, as well as marriage under legal age, and to develop age-appropriate safe, confidential and disability-accessible programmes and medical, social and psychological support services to assist girls who are subjected to violence and discrimination;

25. *Urges* States to complement punitive measures with educational activities designed to promote a process of consensus towards the abandonment of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and to provide appropriate services for those affected by the practices;

26. *Calls upon* all States to enact and enforce the necessary legislative or other measures, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to prevent the distribution over the Internet of child pornography, including depictions of child sexual abuse, ensuring that adequate mechanisms are in place to enable reporting and removal of such material and that its creators, distributors and collectors are prosecuted as appropriate;

27. *Urges* States to formulate comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, which should be widely disseminated and should provide targets and timetables for implementation, as well as effective domestic enforcement procedures through the establishment of monitoring mechanisms involving all parties concerned, including consultations with women's organizations, giving attention to the recommendations relating to the

girl child of the Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children;

28. *Also urges* States to ensure that the right of children to express themselves and to participate in all matters affecting them, in accordance with their age and maturity, is fully and equally enjoyed by girls;

29. *Further urges* States to involve girls, including girls with special needs, and their representative organizations, in decision-making processes, as appropriate, and to include them as full and active partners in identifying their own needs and in developing, planning, implementing and assessing policies and programmes to meet those needs;

30. *Recognizes* that a considerable number of girl children are particularly vulnerable, including orphans, children living on the street, internally displaced and refugee children, children affected by trafficking and sexual and economic exploitation, children living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, and children who are incarcerated who live without parental support, and therefore urges States, with the support of the international community, where relevant, to take appropriate measures to address the needs of such children by implementing national policies and strategies to build and strengthen governmental, community and family capacities to provide a supportive environment for such children, including by providing appropriate counselling and psychosocial support, and ensuring their enrolment in school and access to shelter, good nutrition and health and social services on an equal basis with other children;

31. *Encourages* States to promote actions, including through bilateral and multilateral technical cooperation and financial assistance, for the social reintegration of children in difficult situations, in particular girls, considering, inter alia, views, skills and capacities that those children have developed in the conditions in which they lived and, where appropriate, with their meaningful participation;

32. *Urges* all States and the international community to respect, promote and protect the rights of the girl child, taking into account the particular vulnerabilities of the girl child in pre-conflict, conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as in other humanitarian emergencies, and further urges States to take special measures for the protection of girls, in particular to protect them from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV infection, gender-based violence, including rape, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, torture, abduction and forced labour, paying special attention to refugee and displaced girls, and to take into account their special needs in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation assistance and reintegration processes;

33. *Deplores* all cases of sexual exploitation and abuse of women and children, especially girls, in humanitarian crises, including those cases involving humanitarian workers and peacekeepers, and urges States to take effective measures to address gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies and to make all possible efforts to ensure that their laws and institutions are adequate to prevent, promptly investigate and prosecute acts of gender-based violence;

34. *Also deplores* all acts of sexual exploitation, abuse of and trafficking in women and children by military, police and civilian personnel involved in United

Nations operations, welcomes the efforts undertaken by United Nations agencies and peacekeeping operations to implement a zero-tolerance policy in this regard, and requests the Secretary-General and personnel-contributing countries to continue to take all appropriate action necessary to combat these abuses by such personnel, including through the full implementation without delay of those measures adopted in the relevant General Assembly resolutions based on recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations;[21]

35. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media, to fully and effectively implement the relevant provisions of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons[22] and the activities outlined therein, and expresses its view that it will, inter alia, contribute to the promotion of the rights of the girls and enhance cooperation and a better coordination of efforts in fighting trafficking in persons and promote increased ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[23] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;[24]

36. *Calls upon* Member States to devise, enforce and strengthen effective child- and youth-sensitive measures to combat, eliminate and prosecute all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy within wider efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including by taking effective measures against the criminalization of girls who are victims of exploitation and ensuring that girls who have been exploited receive access to the necessary psychosocial support;

37. *Calls upon* Governments, civil society, including the media, and non-governmental organizations to promote human rights education and full respect for and the enjoyment of the human rights of the girl child, inter alia, through the translation, production and dissemination of age-appropriate and gender-sensitive information material on those rights to all sectors of society, in particular to children;

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to ensure that all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, individually and collectively, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Labour Organization, take into account the rights and the particular needs of the girl child in country programmes of cooperation in accordance with

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[21] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/59/19/Rev.1).

[22] Resolution 64/293, annex.

[23] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

[24] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

national priorities, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

39. *Requests* all human rights treaty bodies and the human rights mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, including the special procedures, to adopt regularly and systematically a gender perspective in the implementation of their mandates and to include in their reports information on the qualitative analysis of violations of the human rights of women and girls, and encourages the strengthening of cooperation and coordination in that regard;

40. *Requests* States to ensure that, in all policies and programmes designed to provide comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support, particular attention and support are given to the girl child at risk, living with or affected by HIV, including pregnant girls and young and adolescent mothers and girls with disabilities, with a view to achieving Millennium Development Goal 6, in particular to halt and begin to reverse by 2015 the spread of HIV;

41. *Invites* States to promote initiatives aimed at reducing the prices of antiretroviral drugs, especially second-line drugs, available to the girl child, including bilateral and private sector initiatives as well as initiatives on a voluntary basis taken by groups of States, including those based on innovative financing mechanisms that contribute to the mobilization of resources for social development, including those that aim to provide further access to drugs at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis, and in this regard takes note of the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID;

42. *Calls upon* all States to integrate food and nutritional support with the goal that children, especially girl children, have access at all times to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences, for an active and healthy life, as part of a comprehensive response to HIV and AIDS, other communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases;

43. *Urges* States and the international community to increase resources at all levels, particularly in the education and health sectors, so as to enable young people, especially girls, to gain the knowledge, attitudes and life skills that they need to overcome their challenges, including the prevention of HIV infection and early pregnancy, and to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health;

44. *Stresses* the need to strengthen the commitment of States and the United Nations system in their responsibility to mainstream the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, in particular the girl child, in the development agenda at the national, regional and international levels;

45. *Urges* States, the international community, the relevant United Nations entities, civil society and international financial institutions to continue to actively support, through the allocation of increased human and financial resources, targeted innovative programmes that address ending female genital mutilation and developing and providing education programmes, such as the United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children's Fund joint programme on accelerating the abandonment of female genital mutilation, and sensitization workshops on the dire consequences of this harmful practice for the health of the girl, and to provide training programmes for those who perform the harmful procedure so that they may adopt an alternative profession;

46. *Stresses* that a common coordinated approach that promotes positive social change at the community, national and international levels could lead to the abandonment of female genital mutilation within a generation, with some of the main achievements being obtained by 2015, in line with the Millennium Development Goals;

47. *Urges* States, the international community, the relevant United Nations entities, civil society and the international financial institutions to actively support, through the allocation of increased human and financial resources, efforts to end child and forced marriages;

48. *Calls upon* States to strengthen the capacity of national health systems, and in this regard calls upon the international community to assist national efforts, including by allocation of adequate resources in order to provide essential services needed to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat those cases that occur by providing the continuum of services, including family planning, prenatal and post-natal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care and post-partum care, to adolescent girls, including those living in poverty and in underserved rural areas where obstetric fistula is most common;

49. *Calls upon* States and the international community to create an environment in which the well-being of the girl child is ensured, inter alia, by cooperating, supporting and participating in global efforts for poverty eradication at the global, regional and country levels, recognizing that strengthened availability and effective allocation of resources are required at all levels, in order to ensure that all the internationally agreed development and poverty eradication goals, including those set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[25] are realized within their time framework, and reaffirming that investment in children, particularly girls, and the realization of their rights are among the most effective ways to eradicate poverty;

50. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including an emphasis on child-headed households: causes, effects and prospects, using information provided by Member States, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, with a view to assessing the impact of the present resolution on the well-being of the girl child.

[25] See resolution 55/2.

Draft resolution III
Rights of the child

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming all its previous resolutions on the rights of the child in their entirety, the most recent of which is resolution 65/197 of 21 December 2010,

Emphasizing that the Convention on the Rights of the Child[1] constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and, bearing in mind the importance of the Optional Protocols to the Convention,[2] calling for their universal ratification and effective implementation, as well as that of other human rights instruments,

Recalling the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[3] the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance[4] and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[5]

Reaffirming that the general principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including, inter alia, the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development, provide the framework for all actions concerning children, including adolescents,

Reaffirming also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[6] the United Nations Millennium Declaration[7] and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children"[8], and recalling the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action,[9] the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum,[10] the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,[11] the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition,[12] the Declaration on the Right to Development[13] and the Declaration of the commemorative high-level plenary meeting devoted to the follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children, held in New York from 11 to 13 December 2007,[14] as well as the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[2] Ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531.

[3] Resolution 61/106, annex I.

[4] Resolution 61/177, annex.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

[6] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[7] See resolution 55/2.

[8] Resolution S-27/2, annex.

[9] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[10] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

[11] See resolution 2542 (XXIV).

[12] *Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. I.

[13] Resolution 41/128, annex.

[14] See resolution 62/88.

General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010,[15]

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General on progress made towards achieving the commitments set out in the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly[16] on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in Assembly resolution 65/197,[17] as well as the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children[18] and the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict,[19] whose recommendations should be carefully studied, taking fully into account the views of Member States,

Acknowledging the important role played by national governmental structures for children, including, where they exist, ministries and institutions in charge of child, family and youth issues and independent ombudspersons for children or other national institutions for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child,

Recognizing that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

Taking note with appreciation of the work to promote and protect the rights of the child carried out by all relevant organs, bodies, entities and organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and relevant mandate holders and special procedures of the United Nations, as well as relevant regional organizations, where appropriate, and intergovernmental organizations, and recognizing the valuable role of civil society, including non-governmental organizations,

Profoundly concerned that the situation of children in many parts of the world has been negatively impacted by the world financial and economic crisis, and reaffirming that eradicating poverty continues to be the greatest global challenge facing the world today, recognizing its impact beyond the socio-economic context,

Profoundly concerned also that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical, in an increasingly globalized environment, as a result of the persistence of poverty, social inequality, inadequate social and economic conditions, pandemics, in particular HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, environmental damage, natural disasters, armed conflict, foreign occupation, displacement, violence, terrorism, abuse, trafficking in children and their organs, all forms of exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation of children, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism, neglect, illiteracy, hunger, intolerance, discrimination, racism, xenophobia, gender inequality, disability and inadequate legal protection, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

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[15] See resolution 65/1.
[16] A/66/258.
[17] A/66/230.
[18] A/66/227.
[19] A/66/256.

Gravely concerned about the devastating impact of some of the recent natural disasters, including on children, reaffirming the importance of providing speedy, sustainable and adequate humanitarian assistance in support of relief, early recovery, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development efforts of the affected countries, and reaffirming also the importance of ensuring that human rights, including child rights, are mainstreamed into these efforts,

Stressing the need for the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,[20] and expressing the view that it will, inter alia, contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights of children, enhance cooperation and better coordination of efforts in fighting trafficking in persons and promote increased ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[21] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[22]

I
Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto

1. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 1 to 6 of its resolution 65/197, and urges States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child[1] and its Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography[23] and its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict[24] as a matter of priority and to implement them fully;

2. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General to promote the universal ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict ahead of the tenth anniversary in 2012 of their entry into force, and calls for the effective implementation of the Convention and the above-mentioned Optional Protocols to ensure that all children may fully enjoy all their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. *Calls upon* States parties to withdraw reservations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or the Optional Protocols thereto and to consider reviewing regularly other reservations with a view to withdrawing them in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the adoption on 17 June 2011 by the Human Rights Council of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child providing a communications procedure complementary to the reporting procedure under the Convention on the Rights of the Child;[25]

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[20] Resolution 64/293.
[21] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.
[22] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.
[23] Ibid., vol. 2171, No. 27531.
[24] Ibid., vol. 2173, No. 27531.
[25] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. I, resolution 17/18, annex.

5. *Encourages* States parties, in implementing the provisions of the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto, to take note of the recommendations, observations and general comments of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, including, inter alia, general comment No. 9 (2006) on the rights of children with disabilities;[26]

6. *Welcomes* actions of the Committee to monitor the implementation by States parties of the Convention, and notes with appreciation its actions to follow up on its concluding observations and recommendations, and in this regard underlines, in particular, the regional workshops and the participation of the Committee in national-level initiatives;

II
Promotion and protection of the rights of the child and non-discrimination against children

Non-discrimination

7. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 9 to 11 of its resolution 63/241 of 24 December 2008, and calls upon States to ensure the enjoyment by all children of all their civil, political, cultural, economic and social rights without discrimination of any kind;

Registration, family relations and adoption or other forms of alternative care

8. *Also reaffirms* paragraphs 12 to 16 of its resolution 63/241, and urges all States parties to intensify their efforts to comply with their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to protect children in matters relating to registration, family relations and adoption or other forms of alternative care, and, in cases of international parental or familial child abduction, encourages States to facilitate, inter alia, the return of the child to the country in which he or she resided immediately before the removal or retention;

9. *Recalls* the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, contained in the annex to its resolution 64/142 of 18 December 2009, as a set of orientations to help to inform policy and practice, and encourages States to take them into account;

Economic and social well-being of children, eradication of poverty, right to education, right to enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and right to food

10. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 17 to 26 of its resolution 63/241, paragraphs 42 to 52 of its resolution 61/146 of 19 December 2006, on the theme of children and poverty, and paragraphs 37 to 42 of its resolution 60/231 of 23 December 2005, on the theme of children living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, and calls upon all States and the international community to create an environment in which the well-being of the child is ensured, including by strengthening international cooperation in this field and by implementing their previous commitments relating to poverty eradication, the right to education, and measures to promote human rights education, in accordance with the evolving capacities of the child, the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including efforts to address the situation of children living with or affected by HIV and AIDS and to

[26] Ibid., *Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 41* (A/63/41), annex III.

eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, the right to food for all and the right to an adequate standard of living, including housing and clothing;

11. *Recognizes* the threat to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, posed by the global financial and economic crisis, which is connected to multiple, interrelated global crises and challenges, such as the food crisis and continuing food insecurity, volatile energy and commodity prices, environmental degradation and climate change, and calls upon States to address, in their response to these crises, the negative impact on the full enjoyment of the rights of children;

Elimination of violence against children

12. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 27 to 32 of its resolution 63/241 and paragraphs 47 to 62 of its resolution 62/141 of 18 December 2007, on the theme of elimination of violence against children, condemns all forms of violence against children, and urges all States to implement the measures set out in paragraph 27 of its resolution 63/241;

13. *Urges* States to take, or strengthen, as appropriate, legislative and other measures to effectively prevent, prohibit and eliminate all forms of violence against children, in all settings;

14. *Encourages* all States, requests United Nations entities and agencies, and invites regional organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and to provide support, including financial support, to her for the effective and independent performance of her mandate, as set out in resolution 62/141, and in promoting the further implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on violence against children,[27] while promoting and ensuring country ownership and national plans and programmes in this regard, and calls upon States and institutions concerned, and invites the private sector, to provide voluntary contributions for that purpose;

15. *Notes with appreciation* the consolidated partnerships promoted by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, in coordination with national Governments, United Nations agencies, regional organizations, human rights bodies and mechanisms and representatives of civil society and with the participation of children;

16. *Takes note with appreciation* of the joint report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children,[28] which provides an overview of accessible and child-sensitive counselling, complaint and reporting mechanisms to address incidents of violence, including sexual violence and exploitation;

[27] See A/61/299 and A/62/209.
[28] A/HRC/16/56.

Promoting and protecting the rights of children, including children in particularly difficult situations

17. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 34 to 42 of its resolution 63/241, and calls upon all States to promote and protect all human rights of all children in particularly difficult situations and to implement programmes and measures that provide them with special protection and assistance, including access to health care, education and social services, as well as, where appropriate and feasible, voluntary repatriation, reintegration, family tracing and family reunification, in particular for children who are unaccompanied, and to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration;

18. *Recalls* Human Rights Council resolution 16/12 of 24 March 2011, entitled "Rights of the child: a holistic approach to the protection and promotion of the rights of children working and/or living on the street",[29] and calls for its full implementation;

Children alleged to have infringed or recognized as having infringed penal law and children of persons alleged to have infringed or recognized as having infringed penal law

19. *Also reaffirms* paragraphs 43 to 47 of its resolution 63/241, and calls upon all States to respect and protect the rights of children alleged to have infringed or recognized as having infringed penal law, as well as children of persons alleged to have infringed or recognized as having infringed penal law;

Prevention and eradication of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

20. *Further reaffirms* paragraphs 48 to 50 of its resolution 63/241, and calls upon all States to prevent, criminalize, prosecute and punish all forms of the sale of children, including for the purposes of the transfer of organs of the child for profit, child slavery, commercial sexual exploitation of children, child prostitution and child pornography, with the aim of eradicating those practices and the use of the Internet and other information and communications technologies for these purposes, to combat the existence of a market that encourages such criminal practices and take measures to eliminate the demand that fosters them, as well as to address the needs of victims effectively and take effective measures against the criminalization of children who are victims of exploitation;

21. *Calls upon* all States to develop and implement programmes and policies to protect children from abuse, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation, child prostitution, child pornography, child sex tourism and child abduction, and calls upon States to implement strategies to locate and assist all children subject to these violations;

22. *Also calls upon* all States to enact and enforce necessary legislative or other measures, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to prevent the distribution over the Internet and in all other media of child pornography, including depictions of child sexual abuse, ensuring that adequate mechanisms are in place to

[29] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. II, sect. A.

enable the reporting and removal of such material and that its creators, distributors and collectors are prosecuted as appropriate;

Children affected by armed conflict

23. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 51 to 63 of its resolution 63/241, condemns in the strongest terms all violations and abuses committed against children affected by armed conflict, and in this regard urges all States and other parties to armed conflict that are engaged, in contravention of applicable international law, including humanitarian law, in the recruitment and use of children, in patterns of killing and maiming of children and/or rape and other sexual violence against children, in recurrent attacks on schools and/or hospitals, as well as in all other violations and abuses against children, to take time-bound and effective measures to end them, and urges all States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, other relevant international and regional organizations and civil society to continue to give serious attention to, and to protect and assist child victims of, all violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict, in accordance with international humanitarian law, including the First to Fourth Geneva Conventions;[30]

24. *Also reaffirms* the essential roles of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Council for the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of children, including children affected by armed conflict, notes the increasing role played by the Security Council in ensuring protection for children affected by armed conflict, and also notes the activities undertaken by the Peacebuilding Commission, within its mandate, in areas that promote and contribute to the enjoyment of the rights and welfare of children;

25. *Notes with appreciation* the steps taken regarding Security Council resolutions 1539 (2004) of 22 April 2004, 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 and 1998 (2011) of 12 July 2011, the efforts of the Secretary-General to implement the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict in accordance with those resolutions, with the participation of and in cooperation with national Governments and relevant United Nations and civil society actors, including at the country level, requests the Secretary-General to ensure that information collected and communicated by the monitoring and reporting mechanism is accurate, objective, reliable and verifiable, and in this regard encourages the work and the deployment, as appropriate, of United Nations child protection advisers in peacekeeping operations and political and peacebuilding missions;

Child labour

26. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 64 to 80 of its resolution 63/241, on the theme of child labour, and calls upon all States to translate into concrete action their commitment to the progressive and effective elimination of child labour that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development, and to eliminate immediately the worst forms of child labour;

[30] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

27. *Notes with interest* the outcome of the Hague Global Child Labour Conference, including the Road Map for Achieving the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016;[31]

28. *Calls upon* all States to take into account the global report of the Director-General of the International Labour Organization, entitled "Accelerating action against child labour";[32]

29. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying both the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (Convention No. 182), and the Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, 1973 (Convention No. 138), of the International Labour Organization;

Implementing child rights in early childhood

30. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 28 to 45 of its resolution 65/197, reaffirming that early childhood is a critical phase for the realization of the rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and urges all States to implement the measures set out in paragraph 43 of its resolution 65/197;

III
The rights of children with disabilities

31. *Reaffirms* that all children with disabilities should have full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children, as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child[1] and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[3] and that the full and effective implementation of these instruments is an important step to the realization of the rights of children with disabilities, including respect for their evolving capacities and respect for their right to preserve their identity;

32. *Stresses* the importance of international cooperation in supporting national efforts for the realization of the rights of children with disabilities, recognizing the importance of taking appropriate and effective measures among States that aim at facilitating and supporting capacity-building, including through the exchange and sharing of information, experiences, training programmes and best practices;

33. *Recognizes* that discrimination against any child on the basis of disability is a violation of the inherent dignity and worth of the child, and expresses grave concern that children with disabilities face violations of their human rights as well as discriminatory, attitudinal and environmental barriers to their participation and inclusion in society and in the community;

34. *Concerned* that children with disabilities, particularly girls, are often at greater risk, both within and outside the home, of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment and maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse;

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[31] Available from www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/GlobalChildLabourConference/lang--en/index.htm.

[32] Available from www.ilo.org/declaration.

35. *Reaffirms* that the eradication of poverty is essential to the achievement of all Millennium Development Goals and to the full realization of the rights of all children including those with disabilities, and also reaffirms resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010;

36. *Recognizes* that the majority of children with disabilities live in poverty and that equitable access to economic opportunities and social services, as close as possible to children's own communities, is an important part of relevant strategies for sustainable development;

37. *Recognizes* that children with disabilities are often denied the right to a family environment and to live and be included in their communities, in this regard reaffirms that they have equal rights with respect to family and community life and should not be separated from their parents against their will, except when competent authorities subject to judicial review determine, in accordance with applicable laws and procedures, that such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child, and that in no case should separation be on the basis of a disability of either the child or one or both of the parents;

38. *Recognizes* the importance of preventing the concealment, abandonment, neglect or segregation of children with disabilities and, in this regard, encourages States to consider the introduction of a commitment towards replacing institutionalization with appropriate measures to support family and community care, and transferring resources to community-based support services and other forms of alternative care;

39. *Expresses concern* at the number of children with disabilities who continue to be denied the right to education, and in this regard reaffirms the right of children with disabilities to have effective access to education, on the basis of equal opportunity, in a manner conducive to their fullest possible social inclusion and individual development, including their cultural and spiritual development;

40. *Recognizes also* that early education is of high importance for children with disabilities, and that the measures taken to implement the right to education for children with disabilities should aim at their maximum inclusion in society, free from discrimination;

41. *Reaffirms* that States should take effective and appropriate measures to ensure, on an equal basis with others, that children with disabilities retain their fertility, and that adolescent boys and girls with disabilities have access to information and education, including on reproductive and family planning, that is age-appropriate and in an accessible format;

42. *Recognizes* that children with disabilities are particularly vulnerable in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters, and reaffirms the obligations of States under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, to take all necessary measures to ensure their safety and protection in such situations, including by reviewing their emergency response programmes and support facilities to make them accessible for children with disabilities;

43. *Calls upon* all States to include, within the overall context of policies and programmes for the realization of the rights of the child, for all children within their

jurisdiction, the relevant provisions for the realization of these rights for children with disabilities, in particular:

(a) *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to consider acceding to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[3] and the Optional Protocol thereto,[33] and to do so as a matter of priority, and invites regional integration organizations that have the relevant competence to do so, as defined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to consider accession to the Convention;

(b) To review on a regular basis relevant domestic laws, related regulations and policies in order to ensure that the rights of children with disabilities are fully respected, protected and fulfilled in line with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

(c) To prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability and guarantee to children with disabilities equal and effective legal protection against discrimination on all grounds;

(d) To ensure that children with disabilities have access to information on their rights, including through human rights education and training, enabling them to contribute to identifying, preventing and acting upon violations of their rights;

(e) To take appropriate measures to ensure that children with disabilities have access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications technologies and systems and other facilities and services open or provided to the public both in urban and in rural areas;

(f) To take all necessary measures to ensure the registration of children with disabilities immediately after birth, including by removing barriers that impede their registration, and to guarantee their right to a name, their right to a nationality and, as far as possible, their right to know and be cared for by their parents;

(g) To implement fully the commitments undertaken in General Assembly resolution 65/186 of 21 December 2010, entitled "Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond", and to ensure that children with disabilities are rendered visible in the collection and analysis of data;

(h) To take measures to collect and disaggregate relevant information, including statistical and research data, as appropriate, in order to identify and address the barriers faced by children with disabilities in exercising their rights;

(i) To adopt, implement, and/or strengthen appropriate policies aimed at ensuring the right to an adequate standard of living for children with disabilities and their families, along with equal access to quality and affordable services, especially health, nutrition, education, welfare, social protection, safe drinking water, sanitation and other services that are essential for the child's well-being, and, in this regard, to pay particular attention to the most vulnerable children with disabilities and to those living under especially difficult circumstances;

[33] Resolution 61/106, annex II.

(j) To ensure that children with disabilities have access to the same range, quality and standard of free or affordable, gender-sensitive and age-appropriate health care and programmes as provided to other children, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health, and to take measures to prohibit the forced abortion and sterilization of children on grounds of disability;

(k) To ensure equal access for children with disabilities to appropriate, timely, affordable and high-quality rehabilitation within the existing health infrastructure, and strengthen the provision of community-based rehabilitation services consistent with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

(l) To ensure that community and civil society institutions, services and facilities responsible for children with disabilities comply with national and local quality standards, especially in the areas of health and social protection, and to develop training programmes to ensure a quality, suitable and well-trained workforce for the inclusion of children with disabilities;

(m) To develop strategies, or include in existing strategies measures for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children with disabilities, who are particularly vulnerable to, inter alia, cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment, medical or scientific experimentation, and sexual and physical violence, including bullying and cyberbullying, and to develop and introduce child- and gender-sensitive, accessible, safe and confidential reporting and complaints mechanisms;

(n) To adopt legislative and other appropriate measures, including cross-sectoral approaches, to ensure the full realization of the right to education for children with disabilities, including by ensuring that, on the basis of equal opportunity, accessibility and inclusiveness, they are not excluded from accessible, free and compulsory primary education directed to the development of their personality, talents and mental and physical abilities, from early childhood care and development to vocational training and preparation for work;

(o) To ensure that children with disabilities have equal access with other children to participation in play, recreation, culture, leisure and sporting activities, including in the preschool and school system;

(p) To ensure that children with disabilities have the right, on an equal basis with other children, to express their views freely on all matters affecting them, giving those views due weight in accordance with their age and maturity, and to be provided with disability and age-appropriate assistance to realize that right;

(q) To take all appropriate measures to ensure the protection and safety of children with disabilities during and after situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including adopting and implementing programmes to ensure the physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of children with disabilities, including children who acquire disability as a consequence of such situations of risk, and ensure that such recovery, reintegration and rehabilitation take place in an environment which fosters the well-being, health, self-respect and dignity of the child;

(r) To take all necessary measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, are closely consulted and actively involved in the development of legislation and

policies to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities;

44. *Calls upon* all Member States, and invites the United Nations system, to strengthen international cooperation to ensure the realization of the rights of the child, including for children with disabilities, inter alia, by supporting national initiatives that give more emphasis to the development of children with disabilities, as appropriate, and by reinforcing international cooperation measures in fields of research or on the transfer of technology such as assistive technologies;

45. *Calls upon* the relevant entities, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, donor institutions, including the international financial institutions, and bilateral donors to support, inter alia, national initiatives, when requested, including development programmes for children with disabilities, financially and technically, as well as to enhance effective international cooperation and partnership to strengthen knowledge-sharing and capacity-building, with particular attention to policy development, programme development, research and professional training;

IV
Follow-up

46. *Recognizes* the work of the office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, its increased level of activity and the progress achieved since the establishment of the mandate of the Special Representative, and, bearing in mind its resolution 63/241 and paragraphs 35 to 37 of resolution 51/77 of 12 December 1996, recommends that the Secretary-General extend the mandate of the Special Representative for a further period of three years;

47. *Decides*:

(a) To request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a comprehensive report on the rights of the child containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in the present resolution, with a focus on the indigenous children, bearing in mind relevant international norms and standards and regional and national particularities;

(b) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the children and armed conflict agenda;

(c) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children to continue to submit annual reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the violence against children agenda;

(d) To request the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the

fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography agenda;

(e) To invite the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to present an oral report on the work of the Committee and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children";

(f) To continue its consideration of the question at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children", focusing section III of the resolution entitled "Rights of the child" on indigenous children, bearing in mind relevant international norms and standards and regional and national particularities.

33. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Reports considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of the promotion and protection of the rights of children

The General Assembly decides to take note of the following reports submitted under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children":

(a) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the girl child.[2]

[1] A/66/228.
[2] A/66/257.